

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Amendment paragraph (19) of the Specification as follows:

(19) The present invention is a system and related method for provisioning policies to attached functions in a dynamic manner. Referring to FIG. 1, a network system 100 incorporating the capability of the policying system of the present invention operates and provides network services to attached functions according to policies assigned to the attached functions. Network system 100 includes a network infrastructure 101 and one or more attached functions connected to or connectable to the network infrastructure 101. The network infrastructure 101 includes multiple switching devices, routing devices, access points, MANs, WANs, VPNs, and internet connectivity interconnected and connectable to by way of connection points (e.g., 102a-k). The policying system of the invention employs both hardware and software (e.g., a function embodied in an application executing on policy server 103) to establish network usage control throughout the entire network system 100 at all times as described below. An attached function is external to infrastructure 101 and forms part of network system 100. Examples of attached functions 104a-104d are represented in FIG. 1, and may be any of the types of attached functions previously identified. Network infrastructure entry devices 105a-b of infrastructure 101 provide the means by which the attached functions connect or attach to the infrastructure 101. A network entry device can include and/or be associated with a wireless access point 150. For wireless connection of an attached function to the infrastructure 101, the wireless access point 150 can be an individual device external or internal to the network entry device 104b. A central switching device 106 enables the interconnection of a plurality of network entry devices as well as access to network services, such as policy server 103 or an application server 107. The central switching device 106 further enables the interconnection of the network infrastructure 101 to attached functions that include VPNs (represented by VPN gateway device 120) and WANs (represented by internet cloud 130). The network entry devices, wireless access points and the central switching device are all examples of packet forwarding devices of the network infrastructure 101. On the other hand, the policy server 103 provides a management function of the network infrastructure 101 but that and other servers are not packet forwarding devices.